

HEAR US, HEAL US !

Today marks the 66th observance of the National Day of Prayer. In Daniel 9 the prophet led in prayer and repentance: "O Lord, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned and done wrong... Because of Your great mercy, hear, O Lord, forgive, and act. Delay not, for your own sake." Please pray these words, penned by Anne Graham Lotz, chair of www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org - to hear us, forgive us, heal us:

"We worship You, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the living God of our nation's founding fathers: George Washington, John Adams, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and many others. When we pledge our allegiance, it's as one nation under You. Every time we use American money to buy or sell, we make the statement that in You we have placed our trust.

"We acknowledge that You are the One who has set us high above all the nations on the earth. You have made us the head and not the tail. We have led the free world. The whole world has known that we are identified with You, and they have respected us.

"Again and again, You have given us victory over our enemies. You have blessed us when we have gone out and when we have come in. You have blessed us in our bustling cities and in our beautiful countryside. You have blessed our "fruited plain" so that we have had an abundance for ourselves and for others. You have opened up the storehouse of Your bounty, and have blessed the work of our hands. You have given us unprecedented prosperity so that in the past we have lent to many nations but been debtor to none.

"We now turn to You as the God of Our Fathers. You alone are our Hope for the future. If we as a nation do not get right with You, no one in Washington or in our state capitols can reverse the downward moral and spiritual spiral that has become a free fall and is provoking Your judgment. We approach You now with fear and trembling, as we confess our national sins:

"We confess national addiction to sex. To money. To pleasure. To entertainment. To pornography. To technology. To drugs. To alcohol. To food. To television. To popularity. To ourselves. **We confess** we no longer fear You, and thus we have not even the beginning of wisdom with which to handle the vast knowledge we possess. **We confess** our foolishness of denying You as the one, true, living God, our Creator to whom we are accountable, living as though our lives are a cosmic accident with no eternal significance, purpose or meaning.

"We confess our greed that has run up trillions of dollars of national debt. **We confess** our arrogance and pride that has led us to think we are sufficient in ourselves. **We confess** to believing that the prosperity of our nation has been great because we are great, while refusing to acknowledge that all blessings come from Your hand.

"We confess that we depend upon our military might and our weapons systems to protect us from harm and danger, while denying, defying, and ignoring You. **We confess** that we have allowed the material blessings You have given us to deceive us into thinking we don't need You. **We confess** that we live as though material wealth and prosperity will bring happiness.

"We confess that we have marginalized truth and mainstreamed lies. **We confess** choices that reveal we would rather live in bitterness, resentment, and anger, rather than forgive those who have hurt us or acknowledge our own wrongdoing. **We confess** that we have become one nation under many gods, divided and polarized, with license to sin and justice that no longer follows the rule of law.

"Therefore, we turn to You with tears of shame and a heart of fear for the judgment we are provoking. We repent of our sin. Please, God of Our Fathers, do not back away from us. Do not remove Your hand of blessing on us. As we return to You with humility...With sincerity...Out of necessity...With a desperate sense of urgency. Please! *Return to us!* Hear our prayer. Forgive our sin. Heal our land. For the Glory of Your Great Name...**JESUS. Amen!**"